

For some weeks the work of compiling the new edition of the Register and Directory has occupied the attention of our office. It is

**THE NEW REGISTER.** hoped that the volume may be ready for distribution about the latter part of July or the middle

of August, though the actual date is as yet uncertain. During the past year a spirit of maddening unrest seems to have pervaded the whole medical profession of the state, and the number of changes of address is something wonderful and fearful. Changes are coming, literally, by the hundred, and our meager clerical force has been swamped for days at a time, checking them up. It must necessarily be, therefore, that many changes will come in at the last minute or when the book is on the press and so too late to be made. It is always so. Please, *please*, good sir, be patient if you see yourself in the new edition with an old address; and remember that there is just a possibility that you did not think to send us your change of address. We do the best we can at mind reading, projection of the astral body, manipulation of the kama (?), and other esoteric things—not to speak of making use of county society secretaries, telephone books, etc., etc., but even so we sometimes fail to note a change of address that has not been sent to us. Furthermore, human nature is still frail and fallible, and mistakes will occasionally occur in spite of the fact that the work is checked no less than three times before being uttered. Kind friend, bear these things in mind and be humanly charitable.

In this issue we begin the publication of a most valuable contribution to the literature of Plague.

**ARTICLE ON PLAGUE.** Dr. W. C. Rucker, U. S. P. H. & M. H. S., has kindly translated for the JOURNAL, at no

little personal sacrifice of time and trouble, an article by Le Dantec, which translation makes far and away the most comprehensive contribution to the subject that has yet appeared in English. There are no less than three distinct foci of plague on the Pacific Coast: San Francisco, the Bay Counties and Seattle. How long they will remain plague foci, no one can even guess; but that they will so remain for a period of time longer than it is pleasant to contemplate, no one at all conversant with the disease and its history will for a moment doubt. Of course there will be a few, with minds (?) ossified or atrophied by years of disuse, or congenitally lacking intellect, or with an early acquired longing for the limelight of lay publicity, who will break forth into fulminations (mostly in lay publications) on the subject and write themselves asses by denying that plague exists or ever did exist in this portion of the globe. But this infinitesimally small element will not, in the long run, have any effect upon the final result. It seems highly desirable that every physician on this coast should have in his possession a complete history of

the disease, together with a clear picture of its forms, clinical manifestations and pathology. All this the article by Le Dantec gives, and with the exception of the very latest work of the Indian Plague Commission, it is complete. We, therefore, commend it to your careful attention.

A certain number of physicians seem still to be in doubt as to the actual value of the work of the

Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry. Fortunately, this **A SIMPLE ILLUSTRATION.** number is not large and is growing smaller; however, there will

always be some who, for reasons best known to every one else and denied by themselves, will revile the Council and anathematize its work. The Council's work may be said to be along two distinct lines: (1) determining the truth as to formula of composition and (2) correcting statements of manufacturers as to the value or the effects of individual preparations. A notable example of the valuable work of the Council along the latter line of activity was furnished, recently, in the *Journal A. M. A.*, in an article dealing with the diastasic ferments. One preparation put out by a prominent manufacturer bore upon its label the statement that it would convert one hundred and fifty times its weight of starch; as a matter of cold fact, it could convert fifteen times its weight of starch. A more recent example of the value of the work of the Council is found in the *Journal A. M. A.* for June 13th. Two preparations put out by a German firm of manufacturing chemists and for a long time claimed to be definite, synthetic chemical substances, have been found to be merely mechanical mixtures; we refer to arhovin and pyrenol. Certain of the nostrum-subsidized medical (?) press, whose editors look with alleged holy horror upon the work of the Council, have made the false claim that the Council basely discriminated against American manufacturers and in favor of the German brand. The present expose is, in consequence, very timely, though its application will of course be ignored or denied by the before-referred-to editors of medical (?) journals whose first duty is to the nostrum maker (this term, if translated into plain English, would read "money payer"). The last paragraph of the article referred to is really too choice to omit:

"The firm that makes pyrenol, the *Ghemisches Institut*, Dr. A. Horowitz, Berlin, also makes iodofan, the composition of which was recently shown to differ vastly from the advertised claims. It also puts out visvit, a nostrum which has been exploited by means of clinical histories rehashed from write-ups of other preparations. All of which goes to show that pharmaceutical literary fiction is not confined to the United States, but that German enterprise in this, as in other lines, is encroaching on a highly specialized field. Simple patriotism, however, would seem to dictate that if we must be humbugged let it at least be by home talent."